

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Bangs Community Center: Glass Room**  
**Minutes**

December 16, 2010

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld, Maria Bulzacchelli, Nancy Gilbert, David Kaufman

Staff: Julie Federman, Pamela Field-Sadler

Other: Jennifer Brown - Amherst Resident, John Boothroyd – Amherst resident,  
Robert Fitz – Amherst resident, John McCarran – Amherst Resident,  
Michael Simonelli – Terraclime Geothermal

**Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.**

**I. Review & Receive**

**A. Meeting Minutes**

1. Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2010 – **Approved with modification**

**II. New Business**

**A. Geothermal Well Application: 42 Carriage Lane**

John McCarran, Owner - 42 Carriage Lane, and Michael Simonelli of Terraclime Geothermal in attendance.

The Board of Health (BOH) reviewed an application for a Geothermal Well Construction Permit. Mr. Simonelli explained the application is for a proposed direct exchange geothermal heat pump system to be constructed on the property at 42 Carriage Lane in Amherst which requires three bore holes to be drilled. The system will be closed-loop; a refrigerant will circulate through a ground loop, one ground loop per bore hole, of copper tubing in order to extract heat from the ground. The ground loops will be set in cement, and the refrigerant lines will undergo an extensively tested brazing process. Mr. Simonelli assured the BOH there is little concern of loop breakage/leakage resulting in air or ground water contamination. Ms. Federman suggested researching the Materials Safety Data Sheets for the refrigerants.

**Motion:** Ms. Bulzacchelli made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gilbert, to approve the application for a Geothermal Well Construction Permit for the property located at 42 Carriage Lane as submitted. **Vote:** Unanimous

**B. National Public Health Week: April 4-10, 2011**

The Board of Health (BOH) discussed possibly using National Public Health Week as a catalyst to educate the Amherst community about the BOH, the Health Department and public health in Amherst. The theme of the 2011 National Public Health Week is safety. Ms. Bulzacchelli will consider involving the students in her upcoming Principles of Injury Prevention and Control class, as well as invite the UMASS Public Health Club, to explore planning and managing a project.

**C. Regionalization**

Ms. Federman explained the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is finalizing a Request for Response (RFR) to be released at the end of December 2010 requesting planning grant proposals from applicants

representing groups of municipalities seeking to form public health districts. Ms. Federman provided an overview of requirements including: size and number of municipal participants; required services; health district governance. Planning proposals can be submitted for \$10,000 - \$40,000 and will be due in February 2011; the planning work will take place April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011. Awardees of the planning grants can apply for additional funding for project implementation beginning in October 2011. Ms. Federman cautioned that once the planning and initial implementation of the project is complete, participants would be responsible to financially sustain the project. Ms. Federman reported other communities see potential benefits in sharing services, but there is reluctance in forming a regional health district which potentially needs tax assessment to sustain. The Town Manager supports the partnering of the Amherst and Northampton Health Departments in exploring the possibility of submitting a proposal. Ms. Federman will continue to investigate the implications of seeking this funding and determine if this project is in the best interest of Amherst. Ms. Federman would like the BOH's opinion regarding this item and will forward the final RFR to each member as soon as it is released.

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A. Review: *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells***

The Board of Health (BOH) members reviewed a draft version of the *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells* with modifications suggested by Chairman Ahlfeld. The modifications include: a rewritten purpose; clear definitions for types of wells; a re-organization of requirements for each well type. The suggestion was made to include a definition for a Geothermal Well in the regulation. Ms. Federman supports charging a fee for non-drinking water well construction permits because the Health Department would complete an inspection for each well construction permit application. The BOH agreed to table this item for further discussion at their next meeting.

#### **B. Butternut Farms Housing Project**

John Boothroyd of 22 Longmeadow Drive, Amherst in attendance. Chairman Ahlfeld explained the Board of Health (BOH) had reviewed documents regarding the Butternut Farms Housing Project including a report documenting the soil testing history and the removal and disposal of soils containing lead and arsenic at the site. The BOH concluded after reviewing the documents that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) is the agency responsible to oversee the construction site, and the project developer has met state safety requirements and provided required documentation. The BOH informed Mr. Boothroyd no further action would be taken regarding this matter, and suggested he consult with the state should he have further concerns.

### **IV. Health Director's Report**

#### **A. Farmers' Market**

Two machines necessary to allow patrons to use Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards for purchases at the Farmers' Market have arrived. A consultant

has been hired to facilitate the use of these machines. The new Winter Farmers' Market at the Amherst Middle School has begun successfully.

**B. Warming Shelter**

Ms. Federman recently visited the Amherst Warming Shelter. The new management of the shelter is doing an excellent job. Ms. Federman will be meeting with Milestone Ministries to ensure the guidelines of the Massachusetts Sanitary Code are followed while preparing and serving food. Ms. Federman reported she is encouraging Amherst to participate in regional discussions regarding shelters.

**C. MUNIS**

The Health Department will be attending a full day MUNIS training on January 6, 2011. The training will focus on using the Permits and Code Enforcement module of the town wide software.

**D. Massachusetts Department of Public Health Funds**

The state has remaining H1N1 Influenza (H1N1) funds; Ms. Federman reported she has applied for \$8000 of the surplus H1N1 funds. Ms. Federman hopes to hire a consultant for \$4000 to update the town's Emergency Plan.

**E. Board of Health Member Recruitment**

Ms. Federman reported Town Manager John Musante expects to contact Jennifer Brown soon in order to discuss her interest in the vacant seat on the Board of Health.

**V. Schedule Next Board of Health Meeting/Agenda Closing Date**

**A.** The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2011.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.**

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Pamela Field-Sadler, Management Assistant

**Approved: 1/27/2011**

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**Meeting Document List**

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting. These documents are available for review at the:

**Amherst Health Department, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002**

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2010 (draft)
- Geothermal Well Application: 42 Carriage Lane
  1. Application
  2. Letter from Assistant Sanitarian Javeria Mir
- Regionalization
  1. Public Health Service Delivery Information Packet: pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 20, 27 – 35
  2. D.I.G. Health District Grant from DPH
  3. Berkshire Public Health Partnership Inter-Municipal Agreement (Draft Version 11.19.10)
- *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells*
  1. *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells* (Current Regulation)
  2. Draft *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells* with modifications proposed by Chairman Ahlfeld
  3. Email correspondence from Department of Public Works Director Guilford Mooring